

REMARKS

Continued prosecution and consideration of the claimed subject matter in the accompanying patent application is respectfully requested.

I. The Amendments

As already noted, the first page of the application has been amended to add the history of this application.

Claims 9-29 were cancelled. Claims 16-29 were allowed in the parent application, and 9-15 are being prosecuted in a further divisional application.

It is thus seen that no further new matter has been added.

II. The Enclosed Application

Enclosed is a copy of the prior, immediate parent application, including the previously filed Declaration and Power of Attorney, recorded Assignment and Recordation Form Cover Sheet, as originally filed. The attached application papers are true copies from counsel's files of prior application Serial No. 09/957,770, filed September 21, 2001.

The attached application contains no new matter.

Divisional Application
of Serial No.: 09/957,770

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SUMMARY

The claims corresponding to previously allowed claims in the parent application and in a further divisional application were cancelled in this divisional application.

The application is believed to be in condition for examination and allowance. An early notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

A filing fee is enclosed based on the number of claims in the application after entry of this Preliminary Amendment.

No further fee or petition is believed to be necessary. However, should any further fee be needed, please charge our Deposit Account No. 23-0920, and deem this paper to be the required petition.

The Examiner is requested to phone the undersigned should any questions arise that can be dealt with over the phone to expedite this prosecution.

Respectfully submitted,

By 
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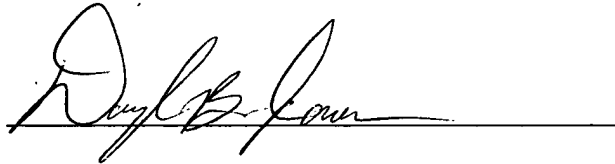
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Enclosures

Application Data Sheet
Transmittal Letter
Fee Transmittal Sheet
Cert. of Express Mailing page
Previously filed Patent Application & Drawings
Previously filed Declaration and Power of Attorney
Previously filed Recorded Assignment and Cover Sheet
Application Fee

CERTIFICATE OF EXPRESS MAILING

I hereby certify that this Preliminary Amendment and its stated enclosures, including Patent Application Transmittal Letter and its stated enclosures, Patent Application and filing fee are being deposited with the United States Postal Service as Express Mail Label No. EV337100570US, postage prepaid in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop: PATENT APPLICATION, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on November 14, 2003.



A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Douglas B. Fournier", is written over a horizontal line.